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MRS. CAROLINE CHISHOLM.

THE lady whose portrait adorns this number of our publication was born at Northampton, in May, 1808. Mr. Jones, her father, belonged to that respectable class of yeomen of whom England has for centuries had reason to be proud. At an early age the subject of this sketch had to deplore her father's loss, and thenceforth she was indebted to the example and

When about twenty-five years of age, Caroline Jones was married to Captain Archibald Chisholm, a native of Scotland, in the East India Company's military service. It was for a long time imagined that Mrs. Chisholm's husband was connected with the navy, and even now that notion prevails very generally; but it is quite a mistake. This error has doubtless



PORTRAIT OF MRS. CHISHOLM.

energy of her maternal parent for many of those characteristics which have so singularly marked her career, and placed her in the first rank among the practical reformers of this enlightened age. Mrs. Jones is still living, enjoying more health and strength than falls to the lot of most people; and she doubtless feels an honest pride in witnessing the position which her daughter has so deservedly attained in the estimation of the British public.

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arisen from Mrs. Chisholm's name having so long been associated with ships.

Two years after their marriage, Mrs. Chisholm accompanied her husband to India, he being connected with the Madras Presidency. Here may be said to have commenced Mrs. Chisholm's first public efforts. She found the poor young girls and orphans of the soldiers in an alarming state of ignorance and vice. Seeing the evil, she lost little time in

uselessly deploring it, but immediately proposed a remedy. This was, to establish a school, and to teach the young girls domestic duties. After many disappointments and vexations, Mrs. Chisholm succeeded in firmly establishing the institution now known in Madras as the Orphanage.

In 1838 Captain Chisholm's health compelled him to remove his family to Van Diemen's Land, and he eventually settled at Sydney. In 1840 he rejoined his regiment, leaving Mrs. Chisholm and her family in Australia. Mrs. Chisholm soon found an ample field for her activity and philanthropy in endeavouring to improve the then infamous system of emigration, more especially with regard to the treatment of her own sex. Both want of space and disinclination to submit facts so unseemly to our readers, preclude us from detailing the sufferings and insults which hundreds of virtuous English girls had to endure, both during the Australian voyage and at its termination. Thanks to the subject of this sketch, those iniquities are at an end.

After a series of obstacles had been overcome—obstacles, too, that arose in quarters where they might have been least expected—Mrs. Chisholm succeeded in establishing at Sydney an Emigrants' Home. After she had procured them the shelter of the Home—brought them, as she termed it, "under her own roof," for she resided there herself, sending her children to the care of others elsewhere—her next object was to find them employment. Even now, when all the facts are so familiar to the public, it is almost difficult to conceive that we are not perusing some romance, so unusual and extraordinary was the course adopted to attain the much-desired end. Well knowing that Sydney was the last place where the girls could obtain respectable employment, although numerous "places" were vacant, Mrs. Chisholm resolved to take them into the bush. Journey after journey did Mrs. Chisholm take, at times accompanied by sixty or seventy girls, whom she left comfortably placed with the wives of respectable settlers. These "bush" excursions proved eminently successful for the female emigrants, and were productive of great good to the colony.

After Mrs. Chisholm had been employed in these arduous undertakings for more than eight years, she resolved upon returning to England, where she hoped still further to extend her sphere of usefulness. In February, 1846, the inhabitants of Sydney presented her with an address and testimonial, amounting to 150 guineas, all of which was collected on the eve of her departure. That money Mrs. Chisholm promised to devote to the service of the colony, by fulfilling two commissions with which she had been entrusted—one from the convicts, and another from the emigrant population of Sydney. And most nobly was that promise redeemed, under circumstances, too, that would have dismayed most persons, even of the sterner sex.

No sooner had Mrs. Chisholm landed in England than she commenced her work, which was nothing more nor less than laying siege to the Colonial Office! "Emigration and Transportation relatively Considered," a small pamphlet addressed to Earl Grey, was the first shot, which, of course, "fell short," and did not induce the besieged to exhibit any tokens of submission. But this was followed by such a continuous fire of petitions, statements, and appeals, from many hundreds of convicts (who, having long since paid the penalty of their faults in the colony, now called upon the home government to redeem the promises made to them, on condition of their good behaviour, and forward to them their wives and children), that "the enemy" capitulated, and government listened with an attentive ear to Mrs. Chisholm's plain and homely truths, and fulfilled the pledges they had broken at the suggestion of the "squattling interest," which had succeeded for a time in hindering a measure of both policy and justice. Thus was one of Mrs. Chisholm's colonial missions fulfilled.

The other commission was of a still more difficult kind to achieve, inasmuch as there was not the plea of injustice upon which to base her application at head-quarters. Among the emigrants at Sydney vast numbers had been compelled, by the then existing regulations of the government commissioners,

to leave their children in England. These children numbered several hundreds, and were, in many cases, a burden upon their respective parishes. To get these children sent out to their parents was now Mrs. Chisholm's object. At first all attempts were utterly fruitless; but perseverance always has its reward, and in this case there was no exception to the general rule. After numerous attendances, both at the Emigration Commissioners' and Colonial Offices—at both of which places Mrs. Chisholm presented herself almost daily; during the severest winter weather—success at last crowned her exertions, and government issued orders for the conveyance of the children to their parents in the colony, which orders were promptly carried out in the ensuing spring.

And now, Mrs. Chisholm having done with her colonial friends, thought there was something needed for the improvement of emigration and the protection of the emigrant at home. She imagined that the condition of emigrants, during a journey of sixteen thousand miles, was well worthy the attention of those who either felt, or professed to feel, an interest in the moral welfare of their fellow-creatures, but more especially of the tender sex, who, when once on board an emigrant ship—whether a "government" ship or not made little difference—were entirely at the mercy of men whose conduct was highly censurable. As Mrs. Chisholm truly observed, "these are trying situations for human nature, and a dangerous position for young women to find themselves in. The innocent and the helpless stand there exposed to the wiles of the snarer. Who has not been shocked by the frightful details we have read in the public papers; how orphan after orphan has been victimised on board emigrant ships by men calling themselves Christians; how modest maidens have been brutalised over and insulted by those whose peculiar duty it was to protect them during the long and tedious voyage?"

It was with a view to the suppression of these evils that Mrs. Chisholm resolved to establish the Family Colonisation Loan Society, through the medium of which she has of late years become so universally known in England. The aims and objects of that society have been made public through so many channels, that it is quite unnecessary here to recapitulate them. But too much importance should not be attached to this one result of Mrs. Chisholm's energy and perseverance. It is in the increased morality, the established propriety, the improved sanitary arrangements, and the better regulated dietary scales of every emigrant ship leaving a British port, that her beneficial exertions are universally acknowledged.

In 1851 Captain Chisholm sailed for Melbourne, where he has since been actively engaged in sending over remittances from parties in Australia who are desirous of seeing once more in this life those nearest and dearest to them. Right well has he seconded his wife's views; for since his arrival he has remitted upwards of ten thousand pounds, some of which has been expended in affording immediate relief to aged parents; but the great bulk of the amount has been disbursed as passage money for numerous relatives, who, but for these arrangements, would in all probability never again have met in this world. In less than two years, about eight hundred individuals have joined their relatives in Australia solely through the aid afforded them by the Family Colonisation Loan Society, in addition to the remittances sent through the medium of Captain Chisholm.

In connexion with Mrs. Chisholm's surprising career, we could state many facts alike creditable to that lady and new to the general reader; but our space compels us to refrain from their recital. It must not be thought for a moment, that when Mrs. Chisholm has seen her emigrants on board, she has done with them. Every matter connected with the emigrant's welfare and comfort has her hearty support. Thus the Colonial Postage Association has been favoured with her powerful assistance, and the Post-office authorities are at present engaged in making arrangements whereby the postage will be reduced to a uniform rate of fourpence to every British colony, instead of the present enormous charge. At the earnest request of Mrs. Chisholm, also, colonial money-orders

will shortly be adopted, for sums not exceeding five pounds. But for the example set by Captain Chisholm in forwarding remittances to this country, and the great success attending his efforts, this arrangement would probably never have been entered into.

In this sketch of Mrs. Chisholm's labours, we have been obliged to limit ourselves to a mere glance at her numerous practical endeavours. To enter into details would fill a goodly volume. In the spring of next year, the subject of our sketch will embark for Australia, which may justly be termed the country of her adoption, and whose people will no doubt one day do homage to the genius and philanthropy of their foster-mother. But in proportion as Australia will be benefited by her presence, so will English emigrants of every grade (but working people's wives and daughters especially), find that they have lost the kindly aid of one whose place it will be difficult indeed to fill. The testimonial at present in course of subscription will doubtless prove that Englishmen can duly appreciate her worth, but English women can never sufficiently reward *their* champion in every position in which it has been Mrs. Chisholm's lot to find them placed. Thanks to that enterprising lady, English mothers can now safely trust their young and innocent daughters in ships for Australia, without any fear of their falling, as too many have before now, an easy prey to bad, designing men.

As many of our readers would doubtless deem this account incomplete without a sketch of Mrs. Chisholm "at home," we will very briefly describe, in his own words, the visit of a friend in June of last year, just before the departure of the "Scindian," "Frances Walker," and "Nepaul," freighted with the society's emigrants.

"The exterior of Mrs. Chisholm's residence at Islington was as unprepossessing as bricks and mortar could possibly make it. Street architecture was evidently in its infancy when Charlton-crescent was thrown together—not built. An assemblage of humbly-clad but clean-looking persons saved us the trouble of seeking the particular house we wanted. It had no distinguishing feature from its neighbours, save that the street-door was adorned with a very small brass plate, inscribed 'Captain Chisholm,' which had evidently done years of good service in the East on some bullock-trunk or travelling-chest. Such an unpretending name-plate would be repudiated by most suburban residents of the present 'fast' school, even for their carpet-bag during their annual week's vacation at Gravesend or Margate. The passage was crowded with intending emigrants, each more eager than the other for an interview with the object of our visit. After considerable jostling and squeezing, we at length contrived to send up our name by a venerable female attendant, who expressed a fervent wish that we 'might see her missus that night,' but she was sure she didn't know *when*! Our fair companion's curiosity was, of course, awakened at this aspect of affairs, and she, at any rate, resolved not to be disappointed. 'Patience is a virtue,' and we had a tolerable lesson in its acquirement. At its termination we were ushered up the narrow uncarpeted stairs into the audience-chamber upon the first floor. We had been at many 'receptions,' but this was the strangest of them all. Mrs. Chisholm was seated behind a large sea-chest, raised upon a couple of benches. The chest was covered with writing materials and baggage-papers, which she was distributing to the various emigrants, whilst at the same time answering every possible inquiry, and endeavouring to satisfy almost every impossible complaint. After witnessing for five minutes what Mrs. Chisholm had to endure, we felt heartily ashamed at having lost our patience on the stairs. The room (but dimly lighted by two or three candles hung in tin candlesticks against the wall) was furnished with a model of the sleeping-berths allotted to emigrants on board the society's ships. Though doubtless very well adapted for the purpose intended, their appearance certainly did not imbue us with a desire immediately to seek

'A life on the ocean wave,'

but rather strengthened our determination

'To take our stand on solid land,'

and repose in our own time-honoured four-poster. Attached to the sides of these sleeping-berths were sundry utensils required by those indulging in a voyage to the antipodes, such as tin plates, hook-pots, and water-cans. These were evidently constructed by some one having most severe notions of economy, combined with a vast regard for durability. One of the bed-places was occupied by a filter, snugly ensconced in a wicker-basket of snowy whiteness, looking altogether so provokingly cozy and comfortable by comparison with its neighbours, that it almost seemed to say, 'Won't you find *me* useful, my friends?' A model emigrants' medicine-chest, made of plain deal wood, unencumbered with all decoration save a printed label, together with a life-buoy, 'capable of sustaining seven persons,' complete alike the ornaments and utilities of the room.

"The 'group-meeting' over, and the emigrants dismissed, we were (at ten o'clock at night) favoured with a private interview by the Emigrants' Friend—for such, indeed, is Mrs. Chisholm. Most of our readers have doubtless seen many portraits of this lady. We have not had the good fortune to see more than one good likeness—poor Fairland's lithograph from Hayter's painting. To describe a lady's personal appearance is an ungracious task at best, and we will therefore not attempt it save in a negative manner. Those of our readers who have seen Mrs. Chisholm depicted (by a certain enthusiastic artist, as yet, happily, unknown to fame) as being mounted on a coal-black steed, attired in an elegant riding-habit (with the prescribed length and insufficiency of waist), and with her whip beckoning her emigrants across a colonial river, in a decidedly 'Come on!' style of attitude, worthy of Astley's best tableaux,* may rest perfectly assured that they do not, from such a picture, form a very accurate notion of the Emigrants' Friend, as she really appears when rendering them assistance. Let them imagine a sedate, matronly lady, with eyes well set under a very capacious forehead—orb that seem to 'look you through' whilst addressing you—and withal a fascinating manner which at once seizes upon you, and induces you to prolong your stay, and they will have a tolerable portrait of Mrs. Chisholm. After a very brief interview, we took our leave, convinced that we had seen by no means the least remarkable personage of these practical and wonder-working times."

Although future English emigrants will shortly be deprived of Mrs. Chisholm's counsel before they quit their native shores, still the results of her labours will remain. These results have been obtained in despite of an opposition such as few would be willing to contend against—an opposition that could only have been defeated by one who was prepared to bring into the contest the same amount of stern determination, unflinching industry, and disinterested philanthropy, as Mrs. Chisholm. But it is the women of England who should ever bless her name, for many indeed are the almost broken hearts of the gentler sex that have been healed by her. Mothers have been united to children whom they hardly dared to hope ever again to see in this life; wives have joined their husbands, after years of painful separation; and scores of British maidens, shielded alike from injury and insult during the long sea voyage, have been safely deposited at their brothers' Australian firesides. These facts should not, and we feel assured will not, be speedily forgotten. Whilst they are remembered, then also will the woman be borne in mind by whose undaunted energy such glorious results were achieved. Every English parent, for ages yet to come, whose children, either from necessity or inclination, may be induced to seek the Australian shores, will have good reason to bless the day when emigration was reformed, its glaring and infamous abuses remedied, and its difficulties and dangers lessened, by the energetic genius and daring moral courage of CAROLINE CHISHOLM.

* A picture recently published in a panoramic form, entitled, "Adventures of Mrs. Chisholm," contains the above portrait. This singular production has been sold by thousands both in London and the northern provincial towns of England.